11: Logic S-4 (no date) 1936 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

and 23·8 kg. in France. which constitutes yet another sure sign ot the pauperisation of Bulgaria, since in Greece and Yugoslavia the consumption of sugar is about three times as high as in Bulgaria. Another article which during recent years has achieved a record success, is the cultivation and export of dessert grapes which as to value are now classed third in the list of Bulgarian exports. Owing to the careful sorting and packing to which the grapes were subjected by government controllers and to their perfection they have been able to secure an easy preeminence on the Central European markets, and even in England.

The variety chiefly exported resembles somewhat in appearance the Spanish grapes of Almeria, but is less sweet in taste, has a thinner skin, and the bunches are larger. The just appreciation which these grapes have achieved in Central Europe may be gauged by the rapid increase of the quantity exported, which from a mere 52 kg. in 1925, reached 21,223,030 kg. or 3740 truck loads of a value of 140 million leva in 1934. In 1932 some 92,094 hectares were devoted to viticulture, of which about 10% were table or dessert varieties, the remaining being chiefly cultivated for the production of wine, of which 142 million litres were produced in the same year[1]. Recently several co-operative societies have installed modern wine presses and cellars, and are now producing wines according to the latest technique, several standardised types of wine having been put on the market which are not below the average grades of those produced in France and Spain, even a variety of champagne wine being on sale. Hopes are entertained that eventually a market for wine will be found abroad, as local requirements are much below production The con-

[1] The production of grapes is computed at 400 million kg. of which 120 millions are consumed locally, about 20 millions are exported, and some 260 millions used for wine. In 1935 the quantity exported is expected to be as much as 30 million kg.

274 sumption of wine is about 23 litres per capita yearly, as against 153 in France and 101 in Italy. Owners of vineyards were complaining that they could not meet their expenses as grapes grown for wine were a drug on the market. It was stated in the Sobranye on Dec. 8. 1931 that while revenue from vineyards was 600 millions, expenditure on them was 720 million leva, while the capital they represented was 13,000 million.

245 [242] [439] Concurrently with the vine, orchard planting has received a great impetus, the State having established 39 nurseries and experimental stations from which young fruit trees are supplied to farmers at a nominal price. Apples and plums are being exported in increasing quantities, as well as walnuts, of which 2083 tons were exported in 1934. The area occupied by orchards was stated to be 19,420 hectares in 1932, of which 12,030 hectares were planted with plum trees, 919 with apple trees, 122 with pear trees and 6,349 were described as mixed orchards.

247 303 [439] Bulgaria is renowned for its attar of roses; unfortunately the world crisis has affected to a great extent this industry, and the area planted with rose bushes (6800 hectares in 1931) is consequently being reduced since the export of this product has declined from 3,157 kg, valued at 240 million leva in 1928, to 1218 kg. valued at 36 millions in 1934. Consequently a surplus stock of some 3000 kg. has accumulated and this has affected prices, which from 80,000 leva per kg. in 1932, have declined since to about a third of that figure One of the reasons of this falling off in the quantity exported, is the relative high cost of the attar of roses, due most likely to the unduly large amount of capital invested in the distilleries, the capacity of which is disproportionately great to the roses available for distillation, and which moreover work for only one month in the year. In fact, the 32 distilleries which were operating in 1931 were stated to have cost